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XXIV.—*Diary of MR. JOHN M'DOUALL STUART'S Explorations to the North of Murchison Range, in 20° S. Lat., 1860-61.**

Read, November 25, 1861.

Wednesday, April 17, 1861.—Quartz Hill, West Mount Blyth. Started at 7.25 A.M., on a bearing of 70°. We again passed quartz hills running as yesterday; the spinifex still continuing, with a little grass, until we came within a mile of the hills in the Murchison Range; † finding some water, I camped, and gave the horses the rest of the day to recruit. Some of them are looking very bad, and, if I push them too much, I shall have to leave a few behind. Last night, after sundown and during the night, we had a few slight showers of rain and a great deal of thunder and lightning, mostly from the south-west. About eleven to-day the clouds all cleared away. About a mile before camping, we observed the ground covered with numerous native tracks; also that a number of the gum-trees were stripped of their bark all round.

Thursday, April 18.—West Mount Blyth. Started at 7.40 A.M., same bearing, across the Murchison Ranges, in which we found great difficulty. On the north-east side of Mount Blyth we found a large gum-creek of permanent water and camped. I have named this Ann Creek. I then rode to the highest point of the range, taking Thring with me, to see if there is any rising ground to the north-west by which I may cross the gum-plain. I could see no rise—nothing but a line of dark green wood on the horizon. We had great difficulty in getting to the top, the rocks being so precipitous. In coming down the eastern side we were gratified by the sight of a beautiful waterfall, upwards of one hundred feet high, composed of columns of basaltic rock—its form two sides of a triangle, the water coming over the angle. Wind S.E.

Friday, April 19.—Ann Creek. Started at 7.45 A.M., on a course 324°, towards Mount Samuel. The country the same as I have described on my previous journey. After sundown arrived at Goodiar Creek; one of the horses done up, had to leave him a little distance back—he is unwell. On leaving the Murchison Range we crossed a number of quartz reefs and hills running east and south-west. Wind S.S.E.

Saturday, April 20.—Goodiar Creek. Three horses missing this morning, in consequence of the scarcity of feed; the horse

* Mr. Stuart has since succeeded in crossing the continent from Adelaide to Van Diemen Gulf. He left Adelaide October 26, 1861, followed his previous routes to the parallel of 17° S., and then, keeping on the same course, reached a point on Van Diemen Gulf, July 25, 1862, having performed his journey to the north coast in nine months. He returned to Adelaide after an absence of twelve months and thirteen days.—ED.

† See vol. xxxi. of 'Journal' of Royal Geographical Society for maps, &c.—ED.

left behind last night is brought in; he looks very bad indeed. About 11 A.M. the other horses were found, brought in, and saddled, and we proceeded on a N.N.W. course for Bishop Creek, but found the unwell horse too ill to proceed farther than Tennant Creek, where we camped, there being plenty of water and feed. Two natives were seen by Masters this morning, when in search of the horses; he could not get them to come near him. Wind S.W.

Sunday, April 21.—Tennant Creek. Wind from south-west, a few clouds from east.

Monday, April 22.—Tennant Creek. The horse that is unwell still looking very ill, I must do a short journey with him to-day. Started at 7:30 A.M., course 21° , for Bishop Creek, and at 12 miles made it. I find that two of the horses are so weak that they are unable to go any farther without giving in; I have therefore camped, giving them the remainder of the day to recruit. Native smokes are all around us, but at some distance off. Wind E.

Tuesday, April 23.—Bishop Creek. It is late before we can get a start to-day, in consequence of one of the horses concealing himself in the creek. He is an unkind brute; we have much trouble with him in that respect—he is constantly hiding himself somewhere or other. Started at 9:30 A.M., on a course of 17° , to cross Short Range. Found plenty of water in Phillip Creek; the grass on the banks and the plains where it empties itself is splendid, $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet long, fit for the scythe to go into, and an abundant crop of hay could be obtained. We then crossed the range a little north of where I passed before, and found some slight difficulty. After descending we struck a small creek which supplies Kekwick Ponds, and is a tributary to Hayward Creek; found plenty of water, and camped at 3 P.M. Feed abundant. Wind S.E.

Wednesday, April 24.—Hayward Creek. Started at 7:40 A.M.; course, 17° . At 9:30 changed to $14^{\circ} 30'$ west of north, and at 12:30 arrived at Attack Creek; camped at the same place that I did on my former journey. Tracks of natives about, but we have seen none of them. I kept about a mile to the west of my former track, and found the country much more open; 6 miles is poor, country being scrub and spinifex mixed with grass. The banks of both creeks for two or three miles are splendidly covered with grass, in some places over the horses' heads. Four of the horses are ill, and looking very bad indeed. Wind S.W.

Thursday, April 25.—Attack Creek. Started at 7:50 A.M., on a course of 294° , to top of the range, which I have named Whittington Range, after William S. Whittington, Esq., of Adelaide. At 6 miles reached the top. At 9:50 changed to north-west, and at 11:30 struck a large gum-creek running east, with large water-

holes in it. At about 200 yards crossed it again, running to the west, and shortly afterwards crossed it again, running to the east. This being our first new discovery, I have honoured it by calling it Morphett Creek, after the Hon. John Morphett, Chief Secretary. We then ascended another portion of the range, and continued along a spur on our course. This range presents quite a new feature, in having gums growing on the top and all round it; it is composed of masses of ironstone, granite, sand, and limestone, and in some places white marble. The view to the east and south-east is apparently thick wood or scrub; to the north-east another range. Not being on the highest part I could not see the other points; the course of it is about N.N.W. Thinking that the creek we had passed might break through a low part of the range, which I could see to the north-west, at 10 miles I changed to west, and crossed to the other range, but found the dip of the country to the south. We could find no water; traced the creek to the south-east for 2 miles, found some water, and camped. The range is very rough and stony, covered with spinifex; but the creeks are beautifully grassed. Native smoke to east. This is one of the sources of Morphett Creek, and flows to the east; it is as large, if not larger, than Attack Creek, and, in all probability, contains waterholes quite as fine to the eastward. Lat. $18^{\circ} 50' 40''$.

Friday, April 26.—Morphett Creek. At 8 A.M. started on a course of 300° to cross the north-west part of the range. At 9:30 changed to $316^{\circ} 40'$ to a clear hill. At 10:30 passed through a grassy plain, with gum-trees. At 11:45 on the top of the last spur. At 3 P.M. changed to 340° to some large gum-trees, to see if there is a creek. At two miles came upon a small creek, coming from a large grassy plain, which lies to the east of our track. Followed it down in search of water for three miles, but could find none. Run it out into a grassy plain, with gum-trees. I then returned to where I left the party, followed it up into the large grassy plain for about one mile, but, finding no appearance of water, camped after sundown. This plain is of the same description as John's Plain, that I met with on my former journey to the north-east of Bishop Creek—a large open plain covered with grass, and with only a few bushes on it. The journey to-day has been very rough and stony—mostly over rises of the range, which we have not yet got clear of. It is covered with spinifex, gum-trees, and scrub. The creeks run a short distance from the hills, and form small grassy plains. Not a drop of water have we passed to-day, nor is there the appearance of any on before us. I shall be compelled to fall back to-morrow to the water of last night. Four of the horses, I am afraid, will not be able to get there. I must try more to the north, and endeavour to get quit of the plains, and get amongst the creeks. There is no hope of suc-

cess on this course. The country has now the appearance of summer. All the grass being quite dry, the rain we have had below does not seem to have reached thus far. It must be the midsummer rains that supply this part of the country. Lat. $18^{\circ} 38'$. Wind E.

Saturday, April 27.—Grassy Plains. Started at 7.10 A.M., course 110° , to the other side of the plain. At 3 miles came upon a small creek running towards the north; I followed it down to the north. At 3 miles came upon a fine large creek, coming from the south-east, with plenty of water; returned to the party, took them down to the large creek on north course, and at 3 miles camped. Two of the horses are nearly done up. Wind S.E. Lat. $18^{\circ} 35' 20''$.

Sunday, April 28.—Tomkinson Creek. Sent Thring down to examine and see how the creek runs—which I have named after S. Tomkinson, Esq., Manager of the Bank of Australasia, at Adelaide. We have found many new plants and flowers, also some trees, one of which grows to a large size—the largest about a foot in diameter. The fruit is about the size and colour, and has the appearance, of plums; the bark is of a grey colour, the foliage oval and dark-green. Another is more of a bush, and has a very peculiar appearance; the seed-vessel is about the size of an orange, but more pointed. When ripe it opens into four divisions, which look exactly like honeycomb inside, and in which the seeds are contained; they are about the size of a nut (the outside is very hard). The natives roast and eat them. The leaves resemble the mulberry, and are of a downy light-green. We have obtained a few of the seeds of it. The bean-tree does not seem to grow up here. Mr. Kekwick, in looking for plants this morning, discovered one which very much resembles wheat in straw (which is very tough), ear, and seed. It grows 2 feet high. The seed is small, but very much like wheat, both in shape and colour. At about 3 P.M. Thring returned, having run the creek out into a large grassy plain. Its course is W.N.W. for about 9 miles; it then turns to west, and empties itself into the plain. There is plenty of water about, but where it empties itself it becomes quite dry. The native companion, the emu, and the sacred ibis are on this creek. The country is splendidly grassed. We have got to the north side of the Whittington Range. I will have to leave my two done-up horses here, and will get them when I return. The hills and rocks are of the same description as the first part of the range. Wind S.; sun hot; but the nights and mornings are very cold.

Monday, April 29.—Tomkinson Creek. Had a late start this morning, in consequence of my having to take a lunar observation. Started at 10.30 A.M. At 2 miles changed to 330° , to a high hill.

At 2 miles met with a gum-creek, containing water. At 2:10 P.M. reached the top of the high hill; from this we could see a gum-creek. Started at 2:30 to examine it; found water, and camped at 4. Bearing from water to high hill, 110° , which I have named Mount Primrose, after John Primrose, Esq., of North Adelaide. This water will last us six or eight weeks. The country passed to-day has been mostly stony rises of the same description as the other parts of the range. The valleys have a light sandy soil, nearly all with spinifex and scrub. There is very little grass in the creek at this place; its course at Mount Primrose is W.N.W.; on the other side of our camp it turns to south-west. The view from the top of Mount Primrose is not extensive, except to the west and south-west, which appears to be thick wood or scrub. There are native smokes in that direction. To the north and north-east I could see two other grassy plains; beyond them is another stony ridge, which prevented my seeing farther than about 6 miles. To the north-west are high rough hills, which continue round to south-west, and seem to be lost in the woody plain. Near the top of Mount Primrose we met with a scrub, *Eucalyptus demosa*, about half a mile through. There is also the appearance of a high range in the far distance, towards the south-west. I trust this bad country will not continue much longer. Wind S.E. Lat. $18^{\circ} 25'$.

Tuesday, April 30.—Carruthers Creek. The creek in which we are now camped I have named Carruthers Creek, after John Carruthers, Esq., of North Adelaide. Started at 8:50 A.M., course 335° , to another high hill. At 9:50 reached the top; changed our course to another high hill. At 10:30 crossed a gum-creek running to south-west, with water in it. At 11:25 reached the top of the range; descended, and at 1:50 P.M. found a creek running from the range, with a splendid hole of permanent water situated under a cliff, where the creek leaves the ranges. It is very deep, with a rocky bottom. From the top of the range the country seems to be very thick, which I am afraid is scrub; no high hills visible. To the north of this the range appears to cease; I wish it had continued for another 60 miles. The country passed to-day has been stony rises coming from the range, very rough and rocky indeed. My horses' shoes are nearly all gone. I am obliged to let some go without; they have felt the last four rough days very much. Spinifex, scrub, and stunted gums all the day, with occasionally a few tufts of grass; this is very poor country indeed. Native smokes still in south-east. The hills of the same formation as those we first came upon in entering the ranges from Attack Creek. This creek I have named Hunter Creek, after Mr. Hunter, of Messrs. Hunter, Stevenson, and Co., of Adelaide. Camped. The horses seem very tired. Wind E. Lat. $18^{\circ} 17'$.

Wednesday, May 1.—Hunter Creek. Started at 8 A.M.;

course 305°. At 8.45 crossed the Hunter, going south-west. It came round again, and continued crossing our course thirteen times in 9 miles, after which it was lost in a large grassy and gum-plain. At 3.15 P.M. changed to north; at 4.15 changed to east, over a scrubby plain: at 5.15 camped. The plain in which the creek loses itself bears south-west; the banks are beautifully grassed, but about a mile on either side the soil is sandy, with spinifex and scrub, which continued for 9 miles; we then entered upon a scrub and grassy plain. Not finding a creek, or the least indication of a watercourse, and the scrub becoming very thick, with a new description of tree (which in places we saw about 1 foot in diameter; the bark is grey and rough, having a small, dark green leaf, shaped like a butterfly's wing: it is a very handsome tree, with drooping branches), I changed to north, to see if I could find water; but at 3 miles we lost the gums, the new tree taking their place, and becoming very thick scrub, with plenty of grass, but no sign of a watercourse. I again changed to east, in the hope of cutting one in that direction. At 1½ miles again came upon small gums; and at 3 miles seeing neither creek nor any hope of getting water, camped. The horses very tired. Wind light from W.N.W. Lat. 18° 3' 19".

Thursday, May 2.—Large scrubby and grassy plain. Started at 10 A.M., in consequence of some of the horses having strayed a long way to the east during the night; course 143° 30', back to Hunter Creek. I have taken a different course, to see if there is any creek that supplies this plain with water. For about 9 miles we passed over a splendidly grassed plain, with gum-trees, the new tree, and a number of all sorts of bushes. One part for about 3 miles is subject to inundation, the *Eucalyptus demosa* growing thick on it. We then passed over about 2 miles of spinifex and grass, and again entered the grassy plain, which continued to Hunter Creek. During the whole day we have not seen the shadow of a creek or watercourse; it is a great disappointment to be forced to return back from such good country through want of water. If there had been any sign of a watercourse, or if I could have seen any rising ground near our course, I would have gone on another day. I sent Wall to the top of the highest tree, to see if there is anything within view; he can see nothing but the same description of plain. If my horses can travel to-morrow (the last three days have been so very hot that it has nearly done up some of them), I will try a course to the north, and run down the creek, to see if there is one that will lead me through this plain. If I could get to some rising ground, I think I should be all right; but there is none visible, except the end of the range, which is lost sight of to the north-east. Wind again S.E., with a few clouds. Lat. 18 13' 40".

Friday, May 3.—Hunter Creek. Started at 8:40 A.M., course 360°. At 11:15 (9 miles) came upon a creek, dry sandy bed. Searched for water, and at three-quarters of a mile to east found a nice hole; watered the horses, and proceeded on the same course, starting at 12. At 3:20 P.M. changed to 20° N. of E. The first 10 miles was over a plain of gums, covered with grass 2 feet long; the creek which we crossed and watered at empties here. We had then 6 miles of spinifex and a thick scrub of dwarf lance-wood, as tough as whalebone; after that we entered upon another gum-plain, also splendidly grassed, which continued for 4 miles, when the gums suddenly ceased, and it became a large open plain to the north as far as I could see. To the north-west is a small hill, with woody country around it; to the north-east is a low range. Seeing no appearance of water, I changed my course to 30° N. of E., to some high gums; and at 1 mile, finding none, I camped without it. This seems now to be a change of country. There is no telling when or where I may get the next water on this course, so that I shall be compelled to go towards the range to-morrow to get some, and have a long day's journey to the new country. The wind has been from E. all day. Lat. 17° 56' 40".

Saturday, May 4.—Sturt Plains. Started at 7:15 A.M., course east, to find water. At 3:20 P.M. came upon a little creek, and found a small quantity of water, which we gave to the horses. Started again at 9 P.M., course south-east, following the creek to find more. At 1½ mile found water, which will do us until Monday morning. I proceeded to the top of the range, to obtain a view of the country round, but was disappointed in its height; from the plain it appeared higher than it really is. This range I have named Ashburton Range, after Lord Ashburton, President of the Royal Geographical Society. The point upon which I am at present is about 3 miles east of our camp. The view from south to north-west is over a wooded plain; from north-west to north is a large open plain, with scarcely a tree upon it. No range or high country visible in the far distance, except this range and a low rise to north-west. On leaving our last night's camp we passed over 3 miles of the plain, which is subject to inundation. There are numerous nasty holes in it, into which the horses were constantly stumbling; it is covered with splendid grass, and is as fine a country as I have ever crossed. These plains I have named Sturt Plains, after the venerable father of Australian exploration, and my respected commander of the expedition in 1845. Ashburton Range is composed of sandstone and ironstone, granite and a little quartz; it is very rough and broken. Native tracks about here. Wind S.E. This creek I have named Watson Creek, after Mr. Watson, formerly of Clare.

Sunday, May 5.—Watson Creek, Ashburton Range. Sent

Thring to the north, along the range, to see if there is permanent water; at 8 miles he returned, having found plenty. One large hole is about a mile from here; in another creek it is apparently permanent, having a rocky bed. A flight of pelicans overhead to-day; they seem to have come from the north-west, which course I will try to-morrow. Wind S.E. Lat. $17^{\circ} 58' 40''$.

Monday, May 6.—Watson Creek, Ashburton Range. Started at 8:20 A.M., course 300° , to cross Sturt Plain. At 11 miles arrived at the hill which I saw from Ashburton Range. It turned out to be the banks of what was once a fresh-water lake; the water-wash is quite distinct. It had small iron and limestone gravel, with sand and a great number of shells, worn by the sun and atmosphere to the thinness of paper, plainly indicating that it is many years since the water had left them. Judging from the water-marks, the lake must have been about 12 feet deep in the plain. The eucalyptus is growing here. We then proceeded over another open part of it for about 2 miles, when the dwarf eucalypti again commenced, which continued until we camped at 21 miles; the horses quite worn out. This has been the hardest and most fatiguing day's work we have had since starting from Chambers Creek; for, from the time we left in the morning until we camped, we have had nothing but a succession of rotten ground, with large deep holes and cracks in it, caused at a former period by water, into which the poor horses have been constantly falling the whole day, running the risk of breaking their legs and our necks, the grass being so long and thick that they could not possibly see them before they were into them. I had a very severe fall into one of these holes; my horse came right over, and rolled nearly on top of me. I was fortunate enough to escape with little injury. Some of the shells resemble the cockle-shell, but are much longer, many of them being 3 or 4 inches long; the others are of the shape of periwinkles, but six times as large; both sorts are scattered over the plain, which is completely matted with grass. The soil is a dark rich alluvial; and judging from the cracks and holes—some of which are of considerable depth—they are splendid plains, but not a drop of surface-water could we see upon them, nor a single bird to indicate that there is any. It was my intention at starting to have gone on 30 miles, but I find it quite impossible for the horses to do more. It would be madness to take them another day over such a country, when from the highest tree we can see no change. If I were to go another day and be without water, I would never be able to get one of the horses back, and in all probability would lose the lives of the whole party. If I could see the least chance of finding water or a termination of the plain, I would proceed and risk everything. I see there is no hope of my reaching the river by this course. I believe this gum-plain to be a continuation of the one I met with beyond

the Centre, and that it may continue to the banks of the Victoria. The features of the country are nearly the same ; the absence of all birds has a bad appearance. Day very hot. Wind S.E. Lat. $17^{\circ} 49'$.

Tuesday, May 7.—Sturt Plains. Before sunrise this morning I sent Wall up a tree, to see if any hills or rising grounds would be visible by refraction. To the west, with a powerful telescope, he can just see the top of rising ground. As the grass is now quite dry, the horses feel the want of water very much ; many of them are looking wretched, and I hardly think will be able to reach it. However reluctant, I must go back for the safety of the party. At 3 P.M. arrived at the creek which Thring found about 1 mile to the north of my former camp, with the loss of only one horse. We had to leave him a short distance behind ; he would not move a step farther, although during a great part of the journey he had been carrying little or nothing. This water will last two months at least ; feed good. It is inside the first ironstone rise in Ashburton Range, in a gum-creek which empties itself into the plains. This creek I have named Hawker Creek, after James Hawker, Esq., of Her Majesty's Customs, at Port Adelaide. The day has been very hot. Wind S.E. Lat. $17^{\circ} 58'$.

Wednesday, May 8.—Hawker Creek, Ashburton Range. I have sent Masters back to bring up the horse we left behind. Sturt Plains have been at one time the bed of a large fresh-water lake : our journey of the 6th instant was over the middle of it, and we were not at the end of it when I was forced to return ; the same rotten ground and shells continued, although we had got amongst the eucalypti. I shall give the horses a rest to-day, and to-morrow will take the best of them (those that I had out on my former journey), and endeavour to cross the plain to the rising ground seen yesterday morning ; I shall take Thring and Woodforde, with seven horses and one week's provisions. I may be fortunate enough to find some water, but from the appearance of the country I have little hope ; I shall, however, leave nothing untried to accomplish the object of the Expedition. In the morning the horse we left behind could not be found : sent Masters and Sullivan in search of him ; in the afternoon they returned with him, looking miserable. He had wandered away beyond the other camp.

Thursday, May 9.—Hawker Creek, Ashburton Range. Started at 7 A.M. with Thring and Woodforde and seven horses, following our tracks through the rotten ground to the first eucalypti for about 12 miles, as it made it lighter for the horses, the tracks being beaten to that place. Changed our course to 282° , still journeying over Sturt Plains : at 27 miles arrived at the end of the portion of them that had been subject to inundation ; but there are still too many holes to be pleasant. I certainly never did see a more

splendid country for grass ; in many places for miles it is above the horses' knees. We entered upon red sandy soil, with spinifex and grass, from which we changed our bearing. The country became thickly studded with eucalypti, in one or two places rather open, but generally thick. After the 27 miles we again met with the new small-leaved tree, the broad-leaved mallee, the eucalypti, and many other scrubs. At sundown we camped ; distance 33 miles, but not a drop of water have we seen the whole day, or the least indication of its proximity. I hope to-morrow we will be more fortunate and may find some. Wind s.

Friday, May 10.—Sturt Plains. This morning there are a few birds about. Started at 8:15 A.M., same course ; at 10:30 arrived on first top of rising ground seen from the camp of 7th instant, which turns out to be red sandhills covered with thick scrub. Changed our course to north-west, and at 11:15 arrived at the highest point: the view is very discouraging, nothing to be seen all round but sandhills of the same description, their course N.N.E. and s. to w. ; no high hills or range to be seen through the telescope. We can see a long distance, seemingly all sandhills with scrub and stunted gums on them: the first ridge is about 200 feet above Sturt Plains, but farther to the west they are much lower, and become seemingly red, sandy, undulating table-land. There is no hope of reaching the Victoria on this course. I would have gone on farther to-day had I seen the least chance of obtaining water to-night ; but during the greater part of yesterday and to-day we have met with no birds that frequent country where it is, plainly indicating that we are not in the proximity of it. Both yesterday and to-day have been excessively hot, and the country very heavy, which cause my horses to feel the want of water very much, although they are of the best of the lot *c*, and most of them have been out on my previous journeys and are accustomed to privations ; they even feel it more than I expected. Could I have obtained water last night or this morning before leaving the plains, I would have tried 60 miles of the sandy country ; I do not think it will continue a greater distance than that before a change takes place. From this point I can see 25 miles without anything like a change ; to go on now with such a prospect and such heavy country before me, would only be sacrificing our horses and our own lives without a hope of success—the horses having already come 45 miles without a drop of water, and over as heavy a country as was ever travelled on. I have therefore, with reluctance, made up my mind to return to the camp and try it again farther north, where I may have a chance of rounding the sandhills ; the dip of them from here seems to be s.s.w. Turned back, and at 18 miles camped on Sturt Plains, where there is green grass for the horses. Wind s.

Saturday, May 11.—Sturt Plains. At dawn of day started

for the camp; arrived at 2 P.M. It was fortunate I did not go on farther, for some of the horses were scarcely able to reach it—a few more hours and I should have lost half of them; the day has been so hot that it has nearly knocked them all up: found the rest of the party all right at the camp. We had a job to keep the horses from injuring themselves by drinking too much water; I gave them a little three separate times, tied them up for twenty minutes, and then gave them a good drink and drove them off to feed: they took a few mouthfuls of grass, and were back again almost immediately, and continued to do so nearly all the afternoon; they drank an immense quantity. Wind s.

Sunday, May 12.—Hawker Creek, Ashburton Range. My old horses that were out with me before look very well this morning, but the others, whose first trip of privation this has been, are looking very bad indeed; they could not have gone another night without water—it has pulled them down terribly. Yesterday, while Masters was looking for the horses, he saw what appeared to him to be a piece of wood stuck upon a tree, about $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet long, sharp at both ends, broad at the bottom, and shaped like a canoe; having pulled it down, he found it to be hollow: on the top of it were placed a number of pieces of bark, and the whole bound firmly round with grass-cord; he undid it, and found the skull and bones of a child within. Mr. Kekwick brought it to me this morning for my inspection: it certainly is the finest piece of workmanship I have ever seen executed by natives. It is about 12 inches deep and 10 wide, tapering off at the ends; small lines are cut along both sides of it: it has been cut out of a solid piece of wood with some sharp instrument; it is exactly the model of a canoe. I told him to do it up again and replace it as it was found: if it is here when I return, I will endeavour to take it to Adelaide with me. Winds variable. A few clouds about.

Monday, May 13.—Hawker Creek, Ashburton Range. Started at 8 A.M., course 360° . At 5 miles crossed the large gum-tree creek, with water, that Thring found: proceeded along the side of Sturt Plains: at 10 miles ascended the north point of Ashburton Range; descended, and the country became red sand with spinifex, gum-tree, the new-leaved tree, and other shrubs very thick; at 15 miles gained the top of another stony rise; followed three creeks down in search of water; found a little, but not sufficient for us; followed it still farther down, leading us to the south for about 6 miles, but could find no more. I thought it best to return to the large creek for water, which I have named Ferguson Creek, after Peter Ferguson, Esq., of Gawler Town. From the top of the range the view is limited. To the north and north-east are stony rises, at about 9 miles distant: from north to west are Sturt Plains, in some places wooded; to the north they are open for a very long

distance : the country in the hills is bad, but in the plains is beautiful. I am afraid, from the view I have of the country to the north, that I will again meet with the same description of sandhills that I came upon on my last western course. Wind E.S.E., blowing strong. Lat. $17^{\circ} 53' 20''$.

Tuesday, May 14.—Ferguson Creek. Started at 8:30 A.M. on a north course to the place I turned back from yesterday ; arrived at noon ; changed course to 345° . Started again at 12:20. At 1 P.M. crossed a gum creek that has the appearance of water. At 1:40 changed course to 260° , and came upon two large water-holes, apparently very deep, situated in the rocks—they are seemingly permanent—and camped. I named this creek Lawson Creek, after Dr. Lawson, J.P., of Port Lincoln. A number of natives have been camped about them. We found another canoe, of the same description as the one in which the bones of the child were found : it is broken and burned, and seems to have been used as a vessel for holding water. Wind S.E., blowing strong. Mornings and evenings very cold. Lat. $17^{\circ} 43' 30''$.

Wednesday, May 15.—Lawson Creek. Started at 8:10 A.M., went a mile west to clear the stones ; changed to 340° . At 2:45 P.M. changed again to 45° ; camped at 4:15. The first 12 miles is poor country, being on the top of stony rises, with eucalypti, grass, and scrubs. After descending from the rises we crossed a wooded plain, subject to inundation ; no water. The trees are very thick indeed : they are the eucalyptus, the *Eucalyptus demosa*, the small-leaved tree ; another small-leaved tree much resembling the hawthorn, spreading out into many branches from the root : it rises to upwards of 20 feet in height. We have also seen three other new shrubs, but there are no seeds on them. After crossing the plain we got upon red sandy rises, very thick with scrub and trees of the same description. We continued on this course until 2:45 P.M. ; then, as there is an open plain in sight, with rising ground upon it to north-east, and as this scrubby ridge seems to continue, without the least appearance of water, I have changed to north-east. Crossed the plain, which is alluvial soil, covered with grass, but very dry. At 4:15 camped on the north-east side, without water. I would have gone on to the rise, but I feel so ill that I am unable to sit any longer in the saddle. I have been suffering for the last three days from a severe pain in the chest. Wind E. Lat. $17^{\circ} 16' 20''$.

Thursday, May 16.—Sturt Plains. Sent Thring to see if there is a creek or a sign of water under the rise. At 8:20 A.M. he returned, having found no water : it is a low sandy rise, covered with a dense scrub. Started at 8:20 A.M. ; course east. At 3 miles I was forced to return, the scrub is so dense that it is impossible to get through ; came back 2 miles ; changed to 20° west of south to

get out of it ; at 2 miles gained the plain ; then changed to the east of south at 10·45. At 2 P.M. there is no hope of a creek or water. Changed to south-west ; at 2½ miles struck our tracks and proceeded to Lawson Creek. We found the open parts of the plain black alluvial soil, so rotten and cracked that the horses were sinking over their knees, which continued for 6 miles : it is covered with long grass and polygnum, also a few eucalypti scattered over it ; the scrub we were compelled to return from was the thickest I have ever had to contend with ; the horses would not face it ; they turned about in every direction, and we were in danger of losing them ; in 2 or 3 yards they were quite out of sight. In the short distance we penetrated it has torn our hands, faces, clothes, and what is of more consequence, our saddle-bags all to pieces : it consists of scrub of every kind, which is as thick as a hedge ; had we gone farther into it, we should have lost everything off the horses. No signs of water ; from south to west, north and north-east, nothing visible but Sturt Plains, with a few sand-rises having scrub on them, which terminate the spurs of the stony rises ; they are a complete barrier between me and the Victoria. I should think that water could be easily obtained at a moderate depth in many places on the plains. If I had plenty of provisions, I would try to make it by that way. The only course that I can now try is to the north-east or east, to round the dense scrub and plains. At sundown arrived at Lawson Creek. The horses, owing to the dryness of the grass, drank a great quantity of water ; they are falling off very much. Wind s.e.

Friday, May 17.—Sturt Plains. I must remain here to-day to mend saddle-bags, &c. I have sent Thring to north-east to see if the stony rises continue in that direction ; he has returned and gives a very poor account of the country : he crossed them in about 6 miles, and again came upon the plain that we were on yesterday, extending from north-east to south. Nothing but plains. To the north is the dense scrub, thus forming a complete stop to further progress : from here I fear it is a hopeless case either to reach Victoria or the Gulf. The plains and forest are as great a barrier as if there had been an inland sea or a wall built round : I shall rest the horses till Monday, and will then try a course to the north-west and another to north-east ; I have not the least hope of succeeding without wells, and I have not sufficient provisions to enable me to remain and dig them. It is a great disappointment to be so near, and yet through want of water to be unable to attain the desired end. Wind s.e.

Saturday, May 18.—Lawson Creek. Resting horses, &c. Wind s.e.

Sunday, May 19.—Lawson Creek. Wind s.e.

Monday, May 20.—Lawson Creek. Started at 7·25 A.M.

Course 45° , with Thring, Woodforde, and seven horses. The first 4 miles was over the stony rises; the next 3 sandy table-land with spinifex, eucalyptus, and scrub. Crossed part of Sturt Plains, open and covered with grass. Five miles of it was very heavy travelling ground, very rotten, and full of holes and cracks. Camped on the plains at about 30 miles, where the scrub seemingly commences. The plains are of the same description as that already given, after leaving the stony rises. We have seen no birds nor any living thing except kites and numerous grasshoppers, which are in myriads on the plains. From this place to the E., and as far as S.S.W., there is no rising ground within range of vision—nothing but an immense open grassy plain: the absence of birds proclaims it to be destitute of water; we have not seen a drop, nor a creek, nor a watercourse during the whole day's journey. To-morrow I shall again try to get through the scrub. On leaving the camp this morning I instructed Mr. Kekwick to move the party about 3 miles down the creek to another waterhole, the feed not being good, and the country stony round the waterholes. Wind E.

Tuesday, May 21.—Sturt Plains, E. Started at 7.10 A.M. Passed through a very thick scrub 7 miles in extent; we again entered on another portion of the open plains at 10 miles from our last night's camp. Nothing to be seen on the horizon all round but plains. Changed to 300° , to where I saw some pigeons fly. At 2 miles came across their feeding ground; skirted the scrub until we cut our tracks; no appearance of water. This is again a continuation of the open portion of Sturt Plains; they appear to be of immense extent, with occasional strips of dense forest and scrub. We had 7 miles of it this morning as thick as ever I went through; it has scratched and torn us all to pieces. At my farthest on the open plain. I saw that it was hopeless to proceed, for from the W. to N., and round to S.S.W., there is nothing to be seen but immense open plains, covered with grass, subject to inundation, having an occasional low bush upon them. I think with the aid of the telescope I must have seen at least 60 miles; there is not the least appearance of the lowest rise, or any watercourse, neither can we see the tracks or smoke of natives in any direction. The sun on the plain is extremely hot. Having no hope of finding water this morning from the appearance of the plains, I left Woodforde with the pack and spare horses where we camped last night, as the heat and rough journey of yesterday have tired them a great deal—so much so that I fear some of them will not be able to get back to water. Returned to where I had left him, and followed our tracks back to the open plain. After sundown camped among some scrub. Horses very much done up; tethered four, and short-hobbled the two that had done the longest day's journey. Wind S.E.

Wednesday, May 22.—Sturt Plains. Our camping-place last night. After sunset we saw a number of turkeys flying towards the stony rises where our main camp is ; they appear to come from the north-west. Upwards of fifty passed over in twos and threes ; and this morning we observed them going back again. The two horses in short-hobbles have walked off, following our tracks. They cannot have gone far, for I heard them late last night and at four this morning ; we shall be able to overtake them in 3 or 4 miles. They have eaten scarcely anything during the night. Saddled, and followed after them. They left the tracks a short distance from the camp, and kept about 200 yards from them for nearly a mile and a half. We overtook them in $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles, standing under the shade of a tree. Unhobbled, and drove them on before us. At 12 o'clock arrived at Lawson Creek. Had great difficulty in preventing the horses from drinking too much, and, as there are other holes down the creek, I gave a little at a time to each. Found that Mr. Kekwick had moved with the party. Followed them, and at $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles w.s.w. arrived at their camp, and allowed the horses to drink as much as they chose. Poor brutes ! they have had very hard work—80 miles over as heavy a country as could be travelled over, and under a burning sun, without a drop of water. Three of them were those I had on my former journeys ; I could depend upon them : the rest were the best I could pick from the other lot. They have all stood the journey very well, but could not have done another day without water. Natives seem to have been about this water lately, but we have not seen one since leaving our spitting friend on the Hugh. Wind E.

Thursday, May 23.—Lawson Creek. Started 7.45 A.M., course 315° , with Thring, Woodforde, and seven fresh horses. At 14 miles came across a splendid reach of water, about 150 yards wide—how long I do not know, as we cannot see the end of it. It is a splendid sheet of water, and is certainly the gem of Sturt Plains. I have decided at once on returning, and bringing the party up to it, as it is a feature that must be carefully examined ; for it may be the source of the Camfield, or some river that may lead me through. On approaching it, I saw a large flock of pelicans, which leads me to think that there may be a lake in its vicinity. There are mussels and periwinkles in it ; judging from the shells on the banks, the natives must consume a large quantity. The gum-trees round it are not very large. The first 10 miles of that part of the plain travelled over to-day is full of large deep holes and cracks ; black alluvial soil, covered with grass, with young gum-trees thicker as we approached the water, This I have honoured by the name of Newcastle Water, after his Grace the Duke of Newcastle, Secretary for the Colonies. Duck,

native companion, white crane, and sacred ibis abound here. Returned to bring the party up to-morrow. Wind s.e.

Friday, May 24.—Lawson Creek. Started at 8 A.M. for Newcastle Water; arrived at noon; camped. Sent Mr. Kekwick to the north-east and Thring to the west to see the length of it. I have had the depth tried. It is about 6 feet deep 10 yards from the bank, and in the middle 17 feet; I should say it was permanent. Thring found it still the same at 3 miles west; Mr. Kekwick returned after following it for 4 miles. At 2 miles there is a break in it; at 4 miles it is more of a creek coming from the north-east—gum-trees much larger. Woodforde succeeded in catching four fish about 10 inches long, something resembling the whiting. I had one cooked for tea; the skin was as tough as a piece of leather, but the inside was really good—as fine a fish as I have ever eaten. To-morrow I shall follow the water to the west; its bed is limestone. Wind s.e., with a few clouds. Lat. $17^{\circ} 36' 40''$.

Saturday, May 25.—Newcastle Water, Sturt Plains. Started at 7.50 A.M., and followed the water 9 miles round; camped. It still continues, but is now a chain of ponds. As I can see some rising ground N.N.E., about 4 miles distant, I have camped the party, and taken Thring with me; have gone on to see what the country is before us. At 4 miles we found that the first part of the rise is stony, but on the top it is sandy table-land covered with thick scrub. The view is obstructed to the E.N.E. to N. by it; but to the N.W. and W. there is an appearance of rising ground, thickly wooded, about 20 miles off. Wind w.; lat. $17^{\circ} 30' 30''$.

Sunday, May 26.—Newcastle Water, Sturt Plains. This morning we were visited by seven natives, tall, powerful-made fellows. At first they seemed inclined for mischief, making all manner of gestures, and shaking their boomerangs, waddies, &c. We made friendly signs to them, inviting them to come nearer; they gradually approached, and Mr. Kekwick and Lawrence got quite close to them; in a short time they appeared to be quite friendly. I felt alarmed for the safety of J. Woodforde (who had gone down the water in search of ducks, and in the direction from which they had come), and endeavoured to make them friends by giving them pieces of handkerchiefs, &c. During the time we were talking with them I heard the distant report of his gun; at the same time Thring and Masters returned from collecting the horses that were missing; I told them to remain until the natives were gone, as I wished to keep them as long as possible to give Woodforde a chance of coming up before they left us; shortly afterwards they went off apparently quite friendly. Sent Thring and Wall to round up the horses which were close at hand, and while they were doing so the natives again returned, running quite close up to the camp, and setting fire to the grass. It was now evident

they meant mischief. I think they must have seen or heard Woodforde, and have lit the grass in order to engage our attention from him. I felt very much inclined to fire upon them, but desisted, as I feared they would revenge themselves on him in their retreat; they did very little injury by their fire, which we succeeded in putting out. By signs I ordered them to be off, and after much bother they left us, setting fire to the grass as they went along. I now ordered Thring and Wall to go and with all speed to protect Woodforde. In about twenty minutes he came into the camp. After leaving us they had attacked him, throwing several boomerangs and waddies at him. He had only one barrel of his gun loaded with shot; they all spread out and surrounded him, gradually approaching from all sides. One fellow got within 5 yards of him, and was in the act of aiming his boomerang at him; seeing it was useless to withhold any longer, while the black was in the act of throwing, he gave him the contents of his gun in his face, and made for the camp. In a short time Thring and Wall returned at full speed; they had passed where he was, and hearing the report of his gun, made for the place, overtook the blacks, gave chase, and made them drop the powder-flasks and ducks (which Woodforde had laid down before firing when they attacked him); knowing them to be his, they gave up the chase to look for him, but seeing nothing of him, and two of the natives supporting one apparently wounded, they returned to the camp, where they saw him all safe, relating his adventure; his shot-belt still missing, I sent Thring and him to look for it, and to bring up the missing horses which they had seen. Wind variable; cloudy.

Monday, May 27.—Newcastle Water, Sturt Plains. Started at 8.10 A.M., course 335° ; at 10.20 changed to north; at 1.20 P.M. changed to 90° ; and at 1 mile found water; gave the horses some, and proceeded N.N.E.; and at 3.40 changed to 90° to some gums. At $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles camped; the gums turn out to be thick wood. I went N.N.W. this morning, with the expectation of meeting with water, or rather a chain of ponds; at 4 miles I could see nothing of them; and, as we were getting into a very thick scrub of lancewood, I changed to north; at 10 miles on that course, still seeing nothing of them, I changed to east; and at 1 mile came upon them; found water, and followed them; their course now 20° ; at 1 mile found another pond; in a short time lost the bed of them in a thick wooded plain. Found a native path running nearly in my course; followed it, thinking it would lead me to some other water, but in a few miles it became invisible. I continued on the same course for 9 miles, and found myself on Sturt Plains, with belts of thick wood and scrub; to the north, nothing visible but open plains; to north-east, apparently thick wood or scrub; to north-west and west, apparently scrubby sand-

hills. The ponds seem to drain this portion of the plains. Changed to east, to what seemed to be large gum-trees, thinking there might be a creek; arriving there, I found them to be stunted gums on the edge of the plain. There is no hope of succeeding in this quarter; camped without water. Wind E.; lat. $17^{\circ} 12' 30''$.

Tuesday, May 28.—Sturt Open Plain, north. Fourteen of the horses missing this morning before sunrise. From the highest tree nothing is to be seen from east to north and north-west but immense open grassy plains, without a tree on them; no hope of water. I must go back to the ponds, and try again to the westward. Did not find the horses until 9:30 A.M., and started at 10. I observed very large flocks of pigeons coming in clouds from the plains in every direction towards the ponds. Some time afterwards we saw them coming back and flying away into the plains as far as the eye can reach, apparently to feed. Arrived at the water at 1:30 P.M. Wind E.N.E.

Wednesday, May 29.—Chain of Ponds. Started at 7:20 A.M., with Thring, Woodforde, and Wall, and nine horses, to follow a native track which is leading to the westward. At 9:20 made the track, its course W.N.W. At 28 miles camped without water. The track led us into very thick wood and scrub, and at 5 miles became invisible. I still continued on the same bearing through the scrub. We have again met with the mulga, a little different from what we have seen before, growing very straight, from 30 to 40 feet high, bark stringy, the leaf much larger and thicker; amongst it is the hedge-tree; we had 7 miles of it very dense, when we again met with an open plain. At 3 miles entered another dense wood and scrub, like that passed through in the morning. To-day's journey has been over plains of grass, through forest and scrub, without water. In the last 5 miles we passed through a little spinifex, and the soil is becoming sandy. Wind S.

Thursday, May 30.—Sturt Plains. As I can see no hope of water, I will leave Woodforde and Wall with the horses, take Thring with me, and proceed 10 miles, to see if there will be a change in that distance. Went into a terrible thick wood and scrub for $11\frac{1}{2}$ miles, without the least sign of a change; the scrub, in fact, becoming more dense, it is scarcely penetrable. I sent Thring up one of the tallest trees; nothing to be seen but a fearful dense wood and scrub all round; again I am forced to retreat through want of water. The last 5 miles of the 11, the soil is becoming very sandy, with spinifex and a little grass. It is impossible to say in which way the country dips, for, in 45 miles travelled over, we have not seen the least sign of a watershed, it is so level. Returned to where I left the others, followed our tracks back, and at 11 miles camped; horses nearly done up with heavy travelling and the heat of the sun, which is excessive. It is very

vexing and dispiriting to be forced back with only a little more than 100 miles between Mr. Gregory's last camp on the Camfield and me. If I could have found water near the end of this journey, I think I could have forced the rest. It is very galling to be turned back after trying so many times. Wind E.

Friday, May 31.—Sturt Plains. Not having sufficient tethers for all the horses, we had to short-hobble two, and tie their heads to their hobbles; and in the morning they were gone. I suppose they must have broken their hobbles or fastenings; they will most likely make on to our outward tracks; I have sent Thring and Woodforde to follow them up, while Wall and I, with the other horses, proceed on our way to the camp; in two hours they made the tracks before us. I then pushed on as hard as I could get the horses to go; being very anxious about the safety of the party—for, on the first day that I left them, at about 7 miles, we passed fourteen or fifteen natives going in the direction of their camp; I also observed, this morning, that they had been running our tracks both backwards and forwards; at 3 o'clock we arrived, and found all safe; they have not been visited by them, although I observed the prints of their feet in our tracks, a short distance from the camp. It was as much as some of our horses could do to reach the camp. The day has been excessively hot, from N.N.E., with clouds. Lat. $17^{\circ} 7'$.

Saturday, June 1.—Chain of Ponds. I must rest the horses to-day and to-morrow, for they look very miserable; our long is $133^{\circ} 40' 45''$. Before leaving the Ponds I shall try once more to the westward—starting from a point 3 miles west of my first camp on them. To try from this for the Gulf of Carpentaria, I believe to be hopeless: for the plain seems to be without end and without water. If I could see the least sign of a hill, or hope of finding water, I would try it; but there is none—if there is a passage it must be to the south of this. Wind variable, with clouds.

Sunday, June 2.—Chain of Ponds. The day has again been very hot. Wind variable.

Monday, June 3.—Chain of Ponds. Started back to the commencement of the Chain of Ponds and camped. During the day the sky has been overcast with heavy clouds; it has much the appearance of rain. Wind S.E.

Tuesday, June 4.—Chain of Ponds. Last night one of the horses met with an accident in going down to drink at the water-hole; he went into a boggy place, got his hind foot fastened in his hobbles, from which he could not extricate himself, and was drowned before we observed and could save him. This is another great loss, for he was a good pack-horse, and was one that I intended taking on my next trip to the westward. At about 8 P.M. it began to rain, and continued the whole night, coming from the east and

E.S.E.; it still continues without any sign of a break. The ground has become so soft, that when walking we sink up to the ankle, and the horses can scarcely move in it; at sundown there is no appearance of a change; it has rained without intermission the whole of last night and to-day. I do not know what effect this will have on my further progress, for now it is impossible to travel; the horses in feeding are already sinking above their knees. Wind and rain from E. and E.S.E.

Wednesday, June 5.—Chain of Ponds. There is a little sign of a break in the clouds this morning. The rain has continued the whole night. Ground very soft; it has become about the thickness of cream. The horses can scarcely get about to feed. Sundown.—It has been showery all day; sky overcast; clouds and rain from same direction, south-east. In the afternoon some natives made their appearance, at about 600 yards' distance. As the rain had damped the cartridges, I caused the rifles to be fired off in that direction; and, as the bullets struck the trees close to them, they thought it best to retreat as fast as possible, yelling as they went.

Thursday, June 6.—Chain of Ponds. During the night it has been stormy, with showers of rain, and is still the same this morning. Sundown—Still stormy, with a few drops of rain. Wind E.

Friday, June 7.—Chain of Ponds. During the night the rain ceased, and this morning is quite bright. Ground so soft that it is impossible to travel. Lat. $17^{\circ} 35' 25''$. Sent Thring some miles to the west, to see in what state the country is; if fit for us to proceed, and if he can see any water that I could move the party to, for I do not like this place; if more rain falls, it will lock us in altogether; neither do I like leaving the party with so many natives about. At 1 o'clock he returned. The ground was so heavy that he had to turn at 5 miles. He could see no water, but a number of native tracks going to and coming from the west. I shall be obliged to leave the party here, and on Monday try another trip to the west. If I find water, I shall return and take them to it. The day has been clear, but at sundown it is again cloudy. Clouds from north-west. Wind from E.

Saturday, June 8.—Chain of Ponds. This morning it has again cleared off, and there is every appearance of fine weather. If it holds this way, I shall be able to travel on Monday. Sundown, a few clouds. Wind S.E.

Sunday, June 9.—Chain of Ponds. The day has again been fine. Wind still S.E.

Monday, June 10.—Chain of Ponds. Started at 7:55 A.M., course 275° , with Thring, Woodforde, and Wall; nine horses, and fourteen days' provisions. The first 5 miles was over a grassy plain, with stunted gum and other trees. It was very soft, the horses sinking up to their knees. We met with a little rain water

at 3 miles, where the soil became sandy ; continued to be more so as we advanced, with lancewood and other scrubs growing upon it. At 14 miles gained the top of a sand-rise, which seems to be the termination of the sandhills that I turned back from on my west course south of this. From here the country seems to be a dense forest and scrub, no rising ground visible. Camped at 5 P.M., distance 32 miles. The whole journey from the sand-hills has been through a dense forest of scrubs of all kinds—hedge-tree, gum, mulga, lancewood, &c. We have had great difficulty in forcing the horses through it so far—they are very tired. It is the thickest scrub I have yet been in. Ground very soft ; heavy travelling over, with the exception of the last 5 miles, where little rain seems to have fallen. I am afraid this will be another hopeless journey. I fully expected to have got water to-night from the recent rains, but there is not a drop. The country is such that the surface cannot retain it, were it to fall in much larger quantities. I shall try a little farther on to-morrow. We are obliged to tie the horses up to-night, as there is neither water nor feed. We cannot tether them ; and if we let them go in hobbles, the scrub and forest are so thick that we would not see them again before they got back to water. I had a hole dug, to see if any rain had fallen, and found that it had penetrated 2 feet below the surface, under which it is quite dry. Wind E.

Tuesday, June 11.—Dense forest and scrub. Leaving Woodforde, Wall, and the pack-horses, I took Thring with me, and proceeded on the same course to see if I can get through the horrid forest and scrub, or meet with a change of country, or find some water. At 2 miles we came upon some grass again, which continued, and at another mile the forest became much more open and splendidly grassed, which again revived my sinking hopes ; but alas ! it only lasted about 2 miles, when we again entered the forest thicker than ever. At 11 miles it became so dense that it was nearly impenetrable. The horses would not face it ; when forced, they made a rush through, tearing everything we had on, and wounding us severely, by running against the dead timber (which is as sharp as a lancet) and through the branches. I saw that it was hopeless to face through any farther. Not a drop of water have we seen, although the ground is quite moist—the horses sinking above the fetlock. The soil is red and sandy ; the mulga from 30 to 40 feet high and very straight ; the bark has a stringy appearance. There is a great quantity of it lying dead on the ground, which causes travelling to become very difficult ; I therefore returned to where I left Woodforde and Wall, and came back 10 miles on yesterday's journey and camped. This morning about 5.30 we observed a comet bearing 110° ; length of tail 10° , and 10° above the horizon. Wind S.E.

Wednesday, June 12.—Western dense forest and scrub. Proceeded to camp and found all well. This is the third long journey that I have tried to make the Victoria in this latitude, but have been driven back every time by the same description of country and the want of water. There is not the least appearance of rising ground, or a change in the country—nothing but the same dismal, dreary forest throughout; it may in all probability continue to Mr. Gregory's last camp on the Camfield; my farthest point has been within 100 miles of it. I would have proceeded farther, but my horses are unable to do it—they look as if they had done a month's excessive work, from their feet being so dry, the forest so thick, and the want of water—or could I have seen the least sign of a change, or rising ground. Thus end my hopes of reaching the Victoria in this latitude, which is a very great disappointment. I should have dug wells if my party had been larger, and I had the means of conveying water to those that were sinking. I think I could accomplish it in that way; but by doing so, I should have to divide the party in three, one sinking, one carrying water, and one at the camp, which would be too small a number where the natives appear to be so hostile. I have not the least doubt that water could be obtained at a moderate depth, near the end of my journeys, amongst the long thick timber, which seems to be the lowest part of the country; I had no idea of meeting with such an impediment as the plains and heavy scrub have proved to be. For a telegraphic communication I should think that three or four wells would overcome this difficulty and the want of water, and the forest could be penetrated by cutting a line through and burning it; in all probability there is water to be found nearer than this in the Camfield, Mr. Gregory's last camp, somewhere about its sources, which might be 30 miles nearer. Wind S.E. Country drying up very fast.

Thursday, June 13.—Chain of Ponds. To-day I shall move the camp to the easternmost part of Newcastle Water, and now that rain has come from the east, I shall try if I can cross Sturt Plains, and endeavour to reach the Gulf of Carpentaria. My provisions are now getting very short: we are reduced to 4 lbs. of flour and 1 lb. of dried meat per man per week, which is beginning to show the effects of starvation upon some of them; but I can leave nothing untried where there is the least shadow of a chance of gaining the desired object. Started at 9.40 A.M.; at $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles passed our first camp on Newcastle Water; at $8\frac{1}{2}$ miles camped at the last water to the eastward: the ground is firmer than I expected; travelling good; the large part of the water is reduced 2 inches since 24th ult.; the late rains seem to have had no effect on it. Wind S.E.

Friday, June 14.—East end of Newcastle Water. Started

with Thring, Woodforde, and Wall, one month's provisions and ten horses, at 7.45 A.M.; course 60° ; at 2 miles crossed our former tracks, on the top of the sandy table-land, and after leaving it we again got on the open plains, black alluvial soil, covered with grass, deep holes and cracks into which the horses are continually falling on their noses, and running the risk of breaking our necks. These plains have swallowed up every drop of rain that has fallen. The extent of the plain is 7 miles. We then entered a thick wooded country of the same description as the western forest, being equally thick, if not thicker, and as difficult to penetrate. This continued for 13 miles, when we met with another small plain, about $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile wide, but opening out wider to the north-west and south; not a drop of water have we met since leaving Newcastle Water, a distance of about 30 miles, except a little rain-water about 3 miles east of it. The plains are quite dry, scarcely showing that rain has fallen. Camped. The horses have had a hard day's work, and are very tired. I wish I could have found water for them to-night. Lat. $17^{\circ} 26' 20''$. Wind S.E.

Saturday, June 15.—North-east. Small plains. Sturt Plains. Started at 7.30 A.M.; course 60° , through another 10 miles of very thick forest, the thickest we have yet seen. At 11 miles came again upon the large open grassy plain, at the point where I turned on 21st ult. I expected to have found some rain-water here, this being the only place in all the plain I have seen that is likely to retain it. Sent Thring and Woodforde in different directions, while I proceeded in another, to see if we could find any, but not a drop could we see. It has been all swallowed up by the ground, which is now again dry and dusty. It must take an immense quantity to saturate it, and leave any on the surface; and if that were to be the case, the country would become so soft it would be quite impassable. I am again forced to turn—it is quite hopeless to attempt it any farther. It would be sacrificing our horses, and perhaps our own lives, without the least prospect of attaining our end. If I could see rising ground, however small, or a change in the country to justify my risking everything, I would do so in a moment. I only wish there was. I have tried my horses to their utmost; even my old horses, that are inured to hardship, are unable to be longer than three days without water, owing to the heat of the sun, the dryness of the feed, and the softness of the country. We saw a few cockatoos and pigeons. There might be water within a short distance, but none can we see or find: for, on my course, 20° west of north, I passed within 2 miles of Newcastle Water, where the main camp is now, but could not see it. It would require a long time to examine this country for water—there are so many clumps of trees, and strips of scrub on the plain, where water might be, that it would take upwards of

twelve months to examine them all. At sundown camped 15 miles from the main camp. Horses look very bad. It has been very heavy travelling, over rotten ground, and tearing through thick wood and scrub, which has skinned our legs from the knees to the ankles, and caused no little pain. Wind variable.

Sunday, June 16.—Sturt Plains, east. Proceeded to the camp, where I found all well. No natives had been near them. This is very disheartening work to be forced to retreat so frequently without a vestige of a hope; and to be so near, and be baffled through want of water. I shall now proceed to the south, and try once more to round that horrid thick western forest: it is now my only hope; if that fails, I shall have to return. I am doubtful of the water in Ashburton Range if no rain has fallen there; those hills are the last of the rising ground within range of vision, which ends in about lat. $17^{\circ} 14'$. From s.s.e. round the compass to s.s.w. nothing but dense forest and Sturt Plains. Wind s.e.

Monday, June 17.—Newcastle Water, east. Returned to the Lawson and camped. Little rain seems to have fallen here. I kept a little to the west of my former tracks to see the nature of the large open plain. It is completely matted with grass, having large deep holes and cracks, and is as dry as if no rain had fallen for months. Wind s.e.

Tuesday, June 18.—Lawson Creek. Proceeded to Hunter Creek. Tracks of natives upon ours to Hawker Creek. Light winds, variable.

Wednesday, June 19.—Hawker Creek. Although the water-holes in this creek are full from recent rains, the water is very hard, evidently showing it must come from a spring in the hills. Proceeded to the Hunter along the foot of the hills, and at 9 miles crossed the large gum-creek, where I watered the horses on my north course: this I have named Powell Creek, after J. W. Powell, Esq., of Clare. At 20 miles crossed another gum-creek, which I have named Gleeson Creek, after E. B. Gleeson, Esq., J.P., of Clare. Camped on the Hunter. Between this and Hawker Creek we crossed 11 gum-creeks with water in them. The country passed over is not so good, being close to the hills: it is scrubby, and generally covered with spinifex. Wind s.e.

Thursday, June 20.—Hunter Creek. Three horses missing; could not be found until too late to reach the other water to-night. Wind calm.

Friday, June 21.—Hunter Creek. Proceeded to the water under Mount Primrose, over stony hills, the highest of which I have named Mount Shillinglaw, after — Shillinglaw, Esq., F.R.C.S., of Melbourne, who kindly presented me with Flinders's Charts of North Australia. Wind calm. The gum-creek on which we are

now camped, I have named Carruthers Creek, after John Carruthers, Esq., of Adelaide. Calm.

Saturday, June 22.—Carruthers Creek. Proceeded to Tomkinson Creek, where I left the two horses. I will there rest the horses a day, and have those shod which I intend to take with me : the last two days have been over very stony country, which has made some of the horses quite lame. I am now running short of shoes ; we can see nothing of the two horses about our old camp. Light wind from N.E., with a few clouds ; very hot in the middle of the day, evenings and mornings cold.

Sunday, June 23.—Tomkinson Creek. Sent Thring and Woodforde down the creek, and Masters up into the open plain, to see if they could find the horses on their tracks : in the afternoon they returned unsuccessful, except Masters, who had seen their tracks when the ground was boggy. Recent tracks of natives were also seen ; if they have not frightened them away, they will not be far off. I have instructed Sullivan to follow their tracks, and try to find them during my absence. Wind N.E., with a few clouds ; the sun is very hot in the middle of the day.

Monday, June 24.—Tomkinson Creek. Started with Thring, Masters, and Lawrence, and 10 horses with 14 days' provisions, at 7.40 A.M. ; course 270° E. We crossed the plain and the creek several times ; at 12.20, 15 miles, ascended a stony rise, and saw that the creek emptied itself into an open grassy plain, about 2 miles north of us. Proceeded on the same course over a gum plain covered with grass for 5 miles. The country then became sandy soil, slightly undulating with ironstone, gravel, spinifex, gums, and occasionally a little scrub, which continued throughout the day. Camped without water ; very little feed for the horses, it being nearly all spinifex. Distance, 28 miles ; wind w., a few clouds.

Tuesday, June 25.—Spinifex and Gum Plain, west. Started on same course, 270° , at 7.40 A.M. ; camped at 27 miles. The country travelled through to-day is bad, red sandy light soil, covered with spinifex, slightly undulating, and having iron gravel upon it. Scarcely a blade of grass to be seen : some gum-trees and a low scrub of different sorts. I seem to have got to the south of the dense forest, but into a poorer country : not a drop of water or a water-course have we seen since we left Tomkinson Creek. We have crossed two or three low rises of ironstone gravel. Not having the dense forest to tear through has induced me to go on all day in the hope of meeting with a change ; but at the end of the day there seems as little likelihood as when we first came upon it, and it may continue to the river. I am again forced to return disappointed. There is no hope of making the river now ; it must be done from Newcastle Water with wells. I wish that I had

twelve months' provisions and convenience for carrying water; I should then be enabled to do it. Wind E.

Wednesday, June 26.—Spinifex and Gum Plain. Started at 7 A.M. back towards Tomkinson Creek. At dusk found some water on the small plain into which the creek empties itself—camped; distance travelled to-day, 40 miles. One of the horses completely done up; I am fortunate in finding this water, for another night without it, and I would have lost some of them: I am also glad we had a cool day—only two hours' heat. The horses have travelled 100 miles without water, and the country being sandy, made it very heavy walking for them. Wind E.

Thursday, June 27.—Tomkinson Creek. Started for the camp, and arrived at noon. Sullivan had gone after the horses, and lost himself for three days and two nights; not making his appearance the first night, Mr. Kekwick sent J. Woodforde in search of him from south-east to north; the second night, not returning, Mr. Kekwick and Woodforde went out in another direction to try if they could cut his tracks, but were again unsuccessful. At about 3 A.M. he came into the camp perfectly bewildered, and did not seem to recognise any one. From what we can learn from him he must have gone to the south instead of the east, where the tracks of the two horses were seen: on the first night he came close to the camp—saw the other horses feeding, but could not find them. He can give no account of where he went the next day and night; on the third day he cut my outward tracks to the west, and the horse brought him to the camp. I observed his horse's tracks upon ours this morning, about 10 miles down the creek, and could not imagine how they came there. J. Woodforde found the two horses he went in search of within 3 miles of the camp—they had not left the creek. The cream-coloured one had improved very much; but "Reformer" still looks miserable—I think he must be ill. Wind N., with a few clouds coming from the same direction.

Friday, June 28.—Tomkinson Creek. Shoeing horses and preparing for another start: I shall try once more to make the Gulf of Carpentaria from this. There may be a chance of my being able to round Sturt Plains to the east or north-east. Wind varying from S.E. to N.

Saturday, June 29.—Tomkinson Creek. Shoeing horses, &c. Wind S.E.; clouds all gone.

Sunday, June 30.—Tomkinson Creek. Wind N.E.

Monday, July 1.—Tomkinson Creek. Started at 8.10 A.M., course 54°, with Thring, Woodforde, and Masters. At 11.20 (11 miles), top of a high hill which I named Mount Hawker, after the Honourable George C. Hawker, Speaker of the House of Assembly, S. A. At 12.45 (4 miles) struck a large creek, its course a little

east of north, which I have named McKinlay Creek, after John McKinlay, Esq. The first part of the journey is over stony undulations, gradually rising until we reach the top of Mount Hawker, the view from which is not very extensive on our course, as it is intercepted by stony spurs of the range nearly the same height, about 800 feet, and are very rocky and precipitous. They are composed of sandstone, quartz, iron, limestone, and hard, white, flinty rocks. The sandstone predominates. We descended with great difficulty, crossed McKinlay Creek, and at 5 miles ascended another high hill, which I have named Mount Hall, after the Honourable George Hall. From this our view is most extensive, over a complete sea of white grassy plains; at about 15 or 20 miles south-east are the terminations of other spurs of this range; beyond them nothing is visible on the horizon but white grassy plains: to the east and north-east the same. To the north, apparently a strip of dense scrub and forest, which seems to end about north-east, beyond which, in the far distance, we can see the large white grassy plain where I turned back from on the 21st of May and 15th of June. No rising ground visible except the hills of Ashburton Range to north-west and south-east. Descended towards the plains over stony rises; gum-tree, lancewood, and other scrub and spinifex. At 5 miles reached the plain: it is of the same description as the other parts I have been over. No appearance of water: it is hopeless to proceed farther; it will only be rendering my return more difficult, by reducing the strength of my horses, without the slightest hope of success. All hope of gaining the Gulf without wells is now gone: I have, therefore, turned back to a small plain (4 miles), searched round it, and in one of the small creeks found a little rain-water, at which I have camped. Wind s.

Tuesday, July 2.—Loveday Creek. This creek I have named Loveday Creek, after R. J. Loveday, Esq., lithographer to the South Australian Government. Returned towards the camp: on reaching McKinlay Creek, I was informed by J. Woodforde that Masters had remained behind about 6 miles back, and had not yet come up. This is against my strict orders, which are—that no one shall leave the party without informing me, that I may halt and wait for them: I have sent Thring back to one of the hills to fire off a gun, and see if he is to be seen, as I have left my outward tracks to avoid crossing Mount Hall, and the tracks are very difficult to be seen over such stony country; I am afraid that he is lost. In an hour and a half Thring returned—he can see nothing of him: he cut our former tracks, but can see nothing of his on them. My conjectures, I fear, are too true—if he has missed the tracks, it is a thousand chances to one if he is ever found again: to track a single horse is impossible. I proceeded towards Mount Hawker,

and camped on my outward tracks at a remarkable gorge that we had come through: sent Thring back to the top of Mount Hall to raise a smoke, to remain there some time, and see if he comes up—if not, he is to proceed to our last night's camp, there to remain all night, in case he should go there—while I and Woodforde raised another smoke on top of Mount Hawker. A little after 2 P.M. Thring returned with him: he found him on a hill near Mount Hall, looking for the tracks; he was quite bewildered, and in a great state of excitement. I am most thankful that he is found. The account that he gives is, that his horse slipped the reins out of his hand and that he was unable to catch him for some time; and when he did so, he was unable to find our tracks, or to track his own horse back, and he became quite confused: he seems to be most thankful for his narrow escape. As it is too late to reach the camp, I shall remain here to-night. Wind w.

Wednesday, July 3.—Under Mount Hawker. Proceeded to the camp on the Tomkinson; found all right, with the exception of one of the horses (Reformer), which cannot be found; he is one of the two that I left here formerly, and was looking so ill when we found him. He was last seen on Monday night, when he looked miserable; I have sent three men in search of him. Wind variable.

Thursday, July 4.—The Tomkinson. Started at 8.20 A.M., course 300°, with Woodforde, Thring, and Masters, ten horses, and a month's provisions, to try once more to make the Victoria; between my first and last attempts, I may succeed—I am very unwilling to return without trying all that is within my power. At 3 miles we left the plains, and proceeded over stony rises for 2 miles; the country then became sandy, with gum, spinifex, and lancewood scrub, not difficult to get through; there is no grass. At 25 miles came to a little, and not sure of coming upon any more soon, I have camped. We have seen no water since leaving the creek. Lat. 18° 25' 40"; wind S.E.

Friday, July 5.—Spinifex and gum plains. Started at 7.50 A.M., course 360°, to find water. At 9.10 (5 miles) struck a creek with water, followed it down, course 285°, and at 8 miles camped on the last water. The banks, in places, have good feed upon them; but there is a great deal of spinifex and scrub. The creek is getting narrower, and, as the horses had but little to eat last night, I shall give them the remainder of the day here, for there is no telling when they will get another good feed. Day exceedingly hot, horses covered with sweat. This I have named Burke Creek, after my brother explorer, — Burke, Esq., of Melbourne. On camping, I saw a remarkable bird fly up; I sent Woodforde to try and shoot him, which he did; it is of a dark brown colour, and spotted like the landrail; the tail feathers are nine in number,

and 12 inches long. I have had it skinned, and will endeavour to take it to Adelaide. Thring, Woodforde, and Masters cooked the body and ate it: they had scarcely finished when they were seized with violent vomiting, but in a few minutes they were all right again. Wind calm; lat. $18^{\circ} 19' 30''$.

Saturday, July 6.—Burke Creek. Started at 7.45 A.M. same course, to follow the creek (285°); at 3 miles it was lost in a gum grassy plain; changed to 300° . On this course the plain continued for 3 miles; it then became sandy soil, with spinifex, gums, and scrub. Crossed a low sandhill at 14 miles; descended into another low grassy plain subject to inundation, which, I suppose, receives Hunter Creek. It continued for 2 miles, at the end of which we again ascended a sandy rise, on the top of which the country becomes a sandy tableland, and continues so the rest of the day's journey. Camped without water, and with very little grass. The tableland is spinifex, gums, and scrub, in some places very difficult to get through. Distance 30 miles; wind south-east; lat. $18^{\circ} 7' 5''$. At 7 P.M. I observed the comet, 5° above the horizon, bearing 15° w. of N., the nucleus more hazy, and the tail much longer. Calm.

Sunday, July 7.—West Sandy Tableland. Started at 8 A.M., same course (300°); at 11.0, 11 miles. Met with a small grassy plain at 12.40, another at 1.30 P.M.; they are only a few acres in extent. At 3 P.M. we are getting into dense scrub; and, as I can see some distance on before, being on one of the slight undulations, I cannot see the slightest hope of obtaining water: there is no change, no rising ground visible. It is hopeless to continue such sandy country, as it can never hold water on the surface. We dug five feet, in one of the small plains, but came to the clay without finding water, or even moisture. There is not a mouthful of grass for the horses to eat; the whole of the journey, with the exception of the small grassy plains, is spinifex, gums, and scrub. I shall have to retreat to the last plain we passed through, to get feed for the horses, which are looking very bad. The travelling has been heavy, tearing through thick scrub, which in some places has been burned; this makes it very rough for them. I must now give up all hope of reaching Victoria, and am unwillingly forced to return, my horses being nearly worn out. Wind variable; distance 25 miles.

Monday, July 8.—Small grass plain in scrub. Started at break of day and continued until 4.30 P.M. Meeting with a little grass, camped, some of the horses unable to go farther. Wind s.

Tuesday, July 9.—Sandy tableland. Started at sunrise and arrived at Burke Creek. At 11 A.M. turned the horses out to feed for two hours, and proceeded up the creek to where I first struck it. Camped. At a little more than a mile down the creek

from here, there is a course of concrete ironstone running across the creek which forms a large pond of water nearly a mile in length, apparently deep and permanent. Wind w.

Wednesday, July 10.—Burke Creek. Shortly after sunrise proceeded toward the main camp, and arrived there at 3 p.m. Found all well. The natives have been about. They attacked Wall while in search of the missing horse; he and his horse narrowly escaped being hit by their boomerangs. The missing horse cannot be found. I suppose that he has crept into some bushes, and died; for the night before he was missed, he left the other horses and came to the camp-fire; he appeared to be very stupid, and for some time they could not get him away; when they did so he went off reeling. Wind s.w.

Thursday, July 11.—Tomkinson Creek. Shoeing horses, and repairing saddles and bags to carry our provisions back. We have now run out of everything for that purpose, and are obliged to make all sorts of shifts. The two tarpaulings that I brought from Mr. Chambers's station for mending the bags are all used up some time ago, and nearly all the spare bags; the sewing-twine has been used, and we are obliged to make some from old bags. We are all nearly naked, the scrub has been so severe on our clothes; one can scarcely tell the original colour of a single garment, they are so patched. Our boots are also gone. It is with great reluctance that I am forced to return without a further trial. I should like to go back, and try from Newcastle Water, but my provisions will not allow me. I started with 30 weeks' supply at 7 lbs. of flour per week, and have now been out 26, and it will take me 10 weeks before I can reach the first station. The men are also failing, and showing the effects of short rations. I only wish I had sufficient to carry me over until the rain will fall in next March; I think I would be able to make both the Victoria and the Gulf. I had no idea when starting that the hills would terminate so soon in such extensive level country, without water, or I should have tried to make the river, and seen what the country was when I first saw the rising grounds from Mount Primrose, which are the sand and iron undulations passed over on my southernmost western journey. Before I went to Newcastle Water they completely deceived me; for from the top of the Mount they had the appearance of a high range, which I was glad to see, thinking that if the range I was then following up should cease, or if I could not find a way into the river farther north, I would be sure to get in by that distant range, which caused me to leave the Newcastle Water country sooner than I would otherwise have done; and now I have not provisions to take me back again. From what I have seen of the country to the west and south of Newcastle Water, I am of

opinion that it would be no use trying again to make the river, for I believe no water can be obtained by sinking. The country is sandy table-land, on which not a drop of water remains, and there is not a blade of grass. To the west and north-west of Newcastle Water the country is apparently lower, and I think that water could be obtained at a moderate depth. It is the shortest distance between the waters, but the greatest difficulty would be in getting through the dense forest and scrub: that, I should think, could be overcome. For a line of telegraph three or four wells would be quite sufficient. It certainly is a great disappointment to me in not being able to get through, but I believe I have left nothing untried that has been in my power to do. I have tried to make the Gulf and river both before rain fell and immediately after it had fallen; but the results were the same—*unsuccessful*. Even after the rain I could not get a step farther than before it. I shall commence my homeward journey to-morrow morning. Wind s. The horses have had a severe trial from the long journeys they have made, and the great hardships and privations they have undergone. On my last journey they were 106 hours without water.

RETURN.

Friday, July 12.—Tomkinson Creek. The horse Reformer cannot be found, dead or alive. Started 9.10 A.M., course 180° . At 8 miles changed to south-east, following our former tracks, and at 25 miles arrived at our former camp on Morphett Creek; plenty of water. Wind s. Mornings and evenings very cold, with frost.

Saturday, July 13.—Morphett Creek. Started at 8.20 A.M. across the Whittington Range, and arrived at 1.45 P.M. Camped on Attack Creek; no natives to be seen. Wind s.w.

Sunday, July 14.—Attack Creek. During the day sun very hot; wind s.w. No natives made their appearance.

Monday, July 15.—Attack Creek. Arrived at Hayward Creek. Wind s.e.

Tuesday, July 16.—Hayward Creek. Proceeded to Bishop Creek, and camped. Wind s.e.; mornings and evenings very cold.

Wednesday, July 17.—Bishop Creek. Proceeded to Tennent Creek, and camped. Wind s.e.

Thursday, July 18.—Tennent Creek. Proceeded towards Mount Samuel. Crossed the M'Douall ranges farther to the east than before; found the crossing very easy. It is composed of ironstone, granite, quartz, and slate—the granite predominating in

the main range. On the south side are immense masses of nearly pure iron. On reaching the foot of the Mount I find that the rain has not come thus far: I therefore unpacked the horses and sent them back to the large rocky waterholes in Goodiar Creek, as we have a long day's journey before us to-morrow, and the water doubtful. Wind S.E.; Mount Samuel bearing 265° .

Friday, July 19.—Mount Samuel. Proceeded towards Ann Creek, on the north side of the Murchison Range. Started at 7.30 A.M., and arrived at 3.30 P.M.; distance 28 miles. Found the water still plentiful; towards the range large holes. I now conclude that this water is permanent; little or no rain seems to have fallen here since we left it. Wind S.E.; lat. 20° .

Saturday, July 20.—Ann Creek. Rounded the Murchison Ranges, it being too rough to cross. Course 253° . Crossed Mount Blyth, and proceeded to the creek on which I camped on my former journey. Found water more to the west and camped. This I have named Thring Creek. Wind S.E.

Sunday, July 21.—Thring Creek, Murchison Ranges. Proceeded across the southern spur of the Murchison Range, which we found very steep and rugged. Arrived at the Bonney, and camped. Wind S.E.

Sunday, September 15, 1861.—Moolooloo. I shall leave to-morrow for Port Augusta, and proceed by steamer for Adelaide, leaving the party to be brought into town by Mr. Kekwick.

I cannot close my Journal without expressing my warmest thanks to my second in command, and my other companions; they have been brave, and have vied with each other in performing their duties in such a manner as to make me, at all times, feel confident that my orders were carried out to the best of their ability, and to my entire satisfaction; and I also beg to tender my best thanks to the promoters (Messrs. Chambers and Finke) and the Government for the handsome manner I was fitted out.

JOHN M'DOUALL STUART,

Leader of the Expedition.